WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

NEWS

Winchester hometown hero Bobbi Gibb thanks community for road race welcome

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

July 22, 2025 . 6:00 AM — 4 min read

Winchester High School English teacher with Bobbi Gibb before the WFEE road race on Town Day. COURTESY PHOTO/ROISIN O'BRIEN

For the first time in its history, the Winchester Foundation for Ed
Excellence (WFEE) dedicated its annual road race to a person, tha

Subscribe

the urging of three Winchester High School students and their civics project.

Jack McCarthy, along with fellow sophomores Gabriella Fantini and Zoe Maclin, and junior Sharanya Mukherjee, focused their project on a way of honoring Bobbi Gibb, the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.

Students said they brainstormed possibly starting a road race named after Gibb or re-naming the McCall Middle School track for her. But finding out WFEE already held a road race during Town Day made the decision easier and students reached out.

WFEE's Board of Directors agreed to the request and on June 7 of this year, Gibb was the guest of honor at the road race.

Winchester High School students Zoe Maclin, left, Sharanya Mukherjee, Jack McCarthy, Gabriel
teacher Ann Marie Edenhofner with Bobbi Gibb at the Town Day WFEE road race. COURTESY P
O'BRIEN

Subscribe

WFEE Executive Director Maggie Vande Vrede said last month that about 668 runners of all ages had signed up for the event, making it the most people running in recent years.

Vande Vrede added it was great to have Gibb herself on hand for the race.

“She was so kind and thoughtful,” she said. “It was so great to have her there.”

WHS English teacher Roisin O’Brien, who worked with the students to contact Gibb, said having her in Winchester was special.

“This was big for our town,” O’Brien said during Town Day. “What makes it more special is her memories of growing up in Winchester.”

Donate today!

Winchester News recently reached out to Gibb and asked her about the road race and what it was like to be back in her hometown. This is what she had to say, in her own words:

“I’m so grateful for the invitation to join you and all the amazing people of all ages who were there at the Winchester Hometown Race on June 7th, 6/7/2025.

“It was so lovely to return to my home town, to meet so many wonderful people, and to find again the gentle sense of community still thriving in the Winchester I love and remember so vividly.

“It was truly a moving experience.

“You ask me why I run.

Subscribe

“Ever since childhood I’ve loved to run. It’s a joyful sense of running at top speed down the beach or running through the woods or along a city street. I feel free when I run. I feel the joy of existence flowing through me when I run.

“To me, existence itself is a miracle that comes from an incomprehensibly vast love that is beyond our understanding. Every every tiny detail is made with such exquisite care, it has to be coming from love — not from hate or fear — but from Love.

“Our job as human beings is to align ourselves with that Love.

“I first saw the Boston Marathon in 1964. I fell in love with the marathon as a celebration of life, shared with other people.

“The major part of my training was a journey across our entire beautiful country, meeting remarkable people, running in a different place each day, and at night sleeping out under the stars as a way of celebrating the miracle of existence, reaffirming my fundamental faith in people, and feeling the Love out of which this miraculous existence is continuously manifesting.

“I have faith in the American people. I have faith in all people, that we can build a flourishing, healthy peaceful prosperous world together

“Ordinary people are extraordinary, whether given credit or not.

“There is a fundamental unity of the physical and the spiritual as one indivisible and natural wholeness of being.

Subscribe

Bobbi Gibb speaks to Winchester residents at Town Day before the road race. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

"Running to me, brings home this fundamental unity of the physical and the spiritual, as that which embodies each of our own individual beings a embodies the reality of the universe in its fundamental being.

Subscribe

"In this sense, running brings me closer to the sacred wholeness of being. Running brings me a sense of freedom and an expanded sense of being alive.

"It is wonderful to return to my hometown and find this community of loving, caring people still thriving here! It is a great pleasure, privilege and honor to have been part of Winchester Town Day! Thank you to all of you wonderful, amazing people of Winchester.

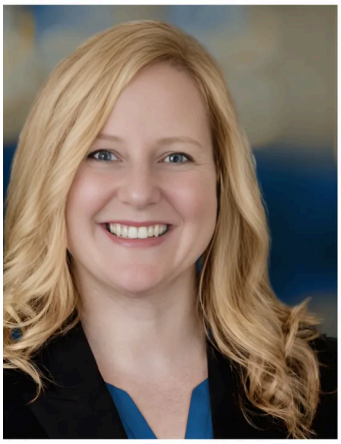
"Much Appreciation,

"Bobbi Gibb

"First Woman to run the Boston Marathon 1966, and First Woman to Finish in 1966, 1967 and 1968."

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Related



NEWS

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

Subscribe

Latest

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day he… colleagues pass sweeping energy

Subscribe

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe